

District 2 Bicentennial Celebration

Captain Lewis P. Holloway

By Richard Hoffman, PM

Lewis P Holloway was a Master Mason member and Past Master of Covington Lodge #171, of Covington, Virginia. A Confederate soldier of the 27th Virginia Regiment, he was captured at Kernstown during the War between the States and imprisoned at Fort Delaware. Ill when captured, his cold became pneumonia and he succumbed while imprisoned. Prior to dying, he requested that he receive a Masonic funeral service upon his demise. The commander of Fort Delaware, Captain Gibson, although not a Mason, went to Jackson Lodge Number 19 and informed them of Captain Holloway's request. In the fashion that they continue to exhibit today, the members of Jackson Lodge abided by their Masonic obligations and performed the service on April 3, 1862 in Delaware City.

At 10:45 A.M. on May 13, 2006, the sun had broken through the clouds and a cool gentle breeze was wafting over Battery Park from the Delaware River when Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald W. Conoway was escorted by Worshipful Master Robert Carmine and the officers of Jackson Lodge Number 19 for a reenactment of the graveside service of that unique moment in Delaware Masonic history.

The Lodge was assisted by a firing squad, dressed in period uniforms, from Fort Delaware. They saluted the fallen hero with three volleys from rifles of that era followed by a bugle playing Taps, responded to by the echo of another bugle from afar.

It is worthy to note that the

Commander of Fort Delaware was so moved by the dedication of the fraternity to a fallen Brother, that he petitioned and joined Jackson Lodge. Proving once again that truth is stranger than fiction, after watching this reenactment in May, a gentleman from Port Penn was so impressed that he petitioned Jackson Lodge for membership.

The reenactment by the Grand Master and the officers and members of Jackson Lodge

was witnessed by about 175 members of the fraternity and their families. Following this, all enjoyed a festive picnic with food served by the dedicated members of Union Lodge Number 7. Music and games of the 1860's were provided for all to enjoy.

In recognition of these events of 1862, Covington Lodge Number 171 of Virginia provided the following commemoration to Jackson Lodge.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF JACKSON LODGE NUMBER 19, GRAND LODGE OF DELAWARE

May 13, 2006

Fraternal Greetings,

On behalf of the officers and members of Covington Lodge Number 171 of Covington, Virginia I send our sincere fraternal greetings and thanks to Jackson Lodge Number 19 of Delaware City, Delaware for their service to our Lodge in honoring our distinguished and revered Past Master Captain Lewis P. Holloway.

The basic tenets of Freemasonry teach the importance of Faith, Hope and Charity. During one of the more trying periods of our Country's history, when literally Brother fought against Brother, our teachings still held forth. Our revered Past Master's hope and prayer was to receive a Masonic Funeral upon his death; he had Faith that this Honor would be bestowed upon him. Jackson Lodge Number 19 knew the importance of this and extended fraternal Charity so his prayer was granted without concern as to whether the uniform he wore was Blue or Gray.

Now, as you celebrate the Bicentennial of your Grand Lodge, you once again realize that, regardless of any possible different opinions, together we are, above all, Brothers of the Mystic Tie. Thank you for again remembering that special moment in History where we, as always, stood shoulder to shoulder as Brother Master Masons.

Our sincere best wishes as you enter a new century of service to humankind in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

So Mote It Be.

Fraternally,

Raymond E. Walton, Jr.